

**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Montpelier, Vermont**

TEAM: Independent and Federal Programs

ITEM: Will the State Board of Education grant renewal of general independent school approval, to serve students in grades 4-12, to Avalon Triumvirate Academy, of Fairfax, Vermont?

RECOMMENDED ACTION: That the State Board of Education grant renewal of general independent school approval, to serve students in grades 4-12, to Avalon Triumvirate Academy of Fairfax, Vermont. This approval is for five years through June 30, 2014.

Approval is subject to the condition that the school immediately report to the Department of Education whenever changes occur in enrollment, programs, policies, facilities, financial capacity, staffing or administration, during the approval period.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: Title 16 V.S.A. §166(b)

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

1. Avalon Triumvirate Academy is a day school, whose vision is to endow each student with the academic attainment, physical refinement, philosophical readiness, and social graces to meet the modern world with time-honored preparation.
2. Avalon Triumvirate Academy was last granted general independent school approval by the State Board of Education on March 15, 2005, through June 30, 2007.
3. On behalf of the Commissioner, Avalon Triumvirate Academy was visited on May 4, 2009 by Pat Pallas Gray and Laura Glass.
4. Avalon Triumvirate Academy is housed in a one-story building with four separate rooms. The first room is a small group work room. The second and third rooms are student individual workrooms, and the fourth room is set up as a group lecture room. The library is also used for group discussions and to view videos or other pertinent television programming. Renovations are being made in the basement area for a science lab, fitness center, and a wood shop. The students have access to a full kitchen and the dining area in the building. The school utilizes the surrounding acreage, which includes a beaver pond, woods, and fields, for studying the VT environment, as well as providing a venue for physical activities. The building meets all state and federal health and safety regulations and is handicapped accessible. A copy of the school's Certificate Occupancy (CO) from the Division of Fire Safety is on file at the department.

5. The minimum course of study as prescribed in 16 V.S.A. §906 is provided and adapted to the age and abilities of the students. The instruction is presented to students in many different formats: lectures, discussions, reading assignments, research projects, field trips, etc. Avalon Triumvirate Academy has the resources necessary to support its program, including networked computers through the building, diverse library offerings, and science laboratory equipment. At the time of the visit, there were seven students enrolled.
6. The staff includes a Head of School, who also teaches, and three part-time teachers. The teaching staff is qualified by degree, training and experience for their positions.
7. The health, safety, attendance, and assessment records were reviewed and found to be in good order.
8. Avalon Triumvirate Academy has submitted information about their financial capacity for the period of approval.
9. The school maintains an operating schedule that includes a total number of instructional hours each year which is not less than that required of a public school serving the same grades.
10. Avalon Triumvirate Academy has a policy on prevention of harassment that is as stringent as the Department's model policy.

COST IMPLICATIONS: None

STAFF AVAILABLE:

Pat Pallas Gray
Independent School Consultant
828-5414

Kerry Garber, Director
Independent & Federal Programs
828-3150

**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Montpelier, Vermont**

TEAM: Independent & Federal Programs

ITEM: Will the State Board of Education acknowledge that the Williston Regional Day Program has changed its name to the Northern Vermont Regional Program for the Deaf/Hard of Hearing and has moved from Williston to St. Albans, VT?

RECOMMENDED ACTION: That the State Board of Education acknowledges that the Williston Regional Day Program has changed its name to the Northern Vermont Regional Program for the Deaf/Hard of Hearing and has moved from Williston to St. Albans, VT.

This acknowledgement is subject to the condition that the school immediately report to the Department of Education whenever any changes occur in enrollment, programs, policies, facilities, financial capacity, staffing, or administration, during the approval period.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: Title 16 V.S.A. §166(b)
State Board Rule 2228 et. seq.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

1. The Northern Vermont Regional Program is a part of the Vermont Center for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, Inc., which was established in the spring of 1998.
2. The Northern Vermont Regional Program will serve a maximum of eight deaf and hard of hearing students in grades pre-K-8. Students with secondary disabilities will be considered on a case by case basis.
3. The Williston Regional Day Program was last granted general and special education independent school approval by the State Board of Education on February 21, 2006, through June 30, 2010.
4. The Northern Vermont Regional Program will be housed at the St. Albans City School in one self-contained classroom. The students/staff will also have access to the cafeteria, nurse's office, technology lab, conference rooms, and other areas as deemed necessary. A Certificate of Occupancy (CO) from the Division of Fire Safety for the classroom to be used at this school is on file at the department.
5. There will be no changes to the school's curriculum, which meets the minimum course of study requirements, as prescribed in 16 V.S.A. §906, and is Framework based. All students will be mainstreamed with hearing children for the related arts: PE, art, music, technology, guidance, etc. If appropriate, the students will also have the opportunity to be

mainstreamed into academic classes such as math, science, or social students. All students will receive social skills classes, speech and language services, individual counseling, and oral communication facilitation if IEP directed.

6. The Northern Vermont Regional Program is staffed by a regional director, one full-time and two part-time licensed teachers of the deaf, a part-time licensed speech/language pathologist, a full-time interpreter, and a part-time interpreter/tutor. Staff members are qualified by degree, training and experience for their positions.
7. The Northern Vermont Regional Program for the Deaf/Hard of Hearing will follow the St. Albans City School's calendar.
8. The school's written special education policies for admissions, discipline, and significant change in placement will remain the same.
9. The Vermont Center for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, Inc. has a policy on prevention of harassment that is as stringent as the Department's model policy.

COST IMPLICATIONS: None

STAFF AVAILABLE:

Pat Pallas Gray
Independent School Consultant
828-5414

Kerry Garber, Director
Independent & Federal Programs
828-3150

**State Board of Education
August 18, 2009
Item I-3**

**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Montpelier, Vermont**

TEAM: Independent & Federal Programs

ITEM: Will the State Board of Education acknowledge that Bennington Early Childhood Center in Bennington, VT will close on August 30, 2009, and will no longer be operating an approved independent kindergarten under State Board Rules 2270 through 2275?

RECOMMENDED ACTION: That the State Board of Education acknowledges that Bennington Early Childhood Center in Bennington, VT will close on August 30, 2009, and will no longer be operating an approved independent kindergarten under State Board Rules 2270 through 2275.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: Title 16 V.S.A. §166(b)

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

1. Bennington Early Childhood Center was last granted approval as an independent kindergarten by the State Board of Education on May 20, 2008, through June 30, 2010.
2. On June 29, 2009, the Vermont Department of Education was notified by the kindergarten's director that Bennington College is closing the Early Childhood Center as of August 30, 2009.

COST IMPLICATIONS: None

STAFF AVAILABLE:

Pat Pallas Gray
Independent School Consultant
828-5414

Kerry Garber, Director
Independent & Federal Programs
828-3150